

Union Calendar No. 744

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**H. R. 6342****[Report No. 118–911, Part I]**

To promote and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for members of the Armed Forces and veterans on Federal recreational lands and waters.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia (for herself and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

DECEMBER 18, 2024

Additional sponsors: Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. LEE of Florida, and Mr. NICKEL

DECEMBER 18, 2024

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

DECEMBER 18, 2024

Committees on Agriculture and Veterans' Affairs discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on November 9, 2023]

A BILL

To promote and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for members of the Armed Forces and veterans on Federal recreational lands and waters.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Military and Veterans*
5 *in Parks Act” or the “MVP Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 *In this Act:*

8 (1) *ACCESSIBLE TRAIL.*—*The term “accessible*
9 *trail” means a trail that meets the requirements for*
10 *a trail under the Architectural Barriers Act accessi-*
11 *bility guidelines.*

12 (2) *ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT ACCESSI-*
13 *BILITY GUIDELINES.*—*The term “Architectural Bar-*
14 *riers Act accessibility guidelines” means the accessi-*
15 *bility guidelines set forth in appendices C and D to*
16 *part 1191 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or*
17 *successor regulations).*

18 (3) *ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.*—*The term “assist-*
19 *ive technology” means any item, piece of equipment,*
20 *or product system, whether acquired commercially,*
21 *modified, or customized, that is used to increase,*
22 *maintain, or improve functional capabilities of indi-*
23 *viduals with disabilities, particularly with partici-*
24 *pating in outdoor recreation activities.*

1 (4) *FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY*.—The
 2 term “Federal land management agency” has the
 3 meaning given the term in section 802 of the Federal
 4 Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C.
 5 6801).

6 (5) *FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS AND*
 7 *WATERS*.—The term “Federal recreational lands and
 8 waters” has the meaning given the term in section
 9 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement
 10 Act (16 U.S.C. 6801).

11 (6) *GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBER*.—The term
 12 “Gold Star Family member” means an individual de-
 13 scribed in section 3.3 of Department of Defense In-
 14 struction 1348.36.

15 (7) *OUTDOOR CONSTRUCTED FEATURE*.—The
 16 term “outdoor constructed feature” has the meaning
 17 given such term in appendix C to part 1191 of title
 18 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regula-
 19 tions).

20 (8) *SECRETARIES*.—The term “Secretaries”
 21 means each of—

22 (A) the Secretary; and

23 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture.

24 (9) *SECRETARY*.—The term “Secretary” means
 25 the Secretary of the Interior.

(10) *SECRETARY CONCERNED*.—The term “Secretary concerned” means—

(A) *the Secretary, with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary; or*

(B) *the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land managed by the Forest Service.*

(11) *VETERANS ORGANIZATION*.—The term “veterans organization” means *a service provider with outdoor recreation experience that serves members of the Armed Forces, veterans, or Gold Star Family members.*

TITLE I—ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

SEC. 101. ACCESSIBLE RECREATION INVENTORY.

(a) *ASSESSMENT*.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) *carry out a comprehensive assessment of outdoor recreation facilities on Federal recreational lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the respective Secretary concerned to determine the accessibility of such outdoor recreation facilities, consistent with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794), including—*

1 (A) camp shelters, camping facilities, and
2 camping units;

3 (B) boat launch ramps;

4 (C) hunting, fishing, shooting, or archery
5 ranges or locations;

6 (D) outdoor constructed features;

7 (E) picnic facilities and picnic units; and

8 (F) any other outdoor recreation facilities,
9 as determined by the Secretary concerned; and

10 (2) make information about such opportunities
11 available (including through the use of prominently
12 displayed links) on public websites of—

13 (A) each of the Federal land management
14 agencies; and

15 (B) each relevant unit and subunit of the
16 Federal land management agencies.

17 (b) *INCLUSION OF CURRENT ASSESSMENTS.*—As part
18 of the comprehensive assessment required under subsection
19 (a)(1), to the extent practicable, the Secretary concerned
20 may rely on assessments completed or data gathered prior
21 to the date of the enactment of this Act.

22 (c) *PUBLIC INFORMATION.*—Not later than 7 years
23 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
24 concerned shall identify opportunities to create, update, or
25 replace signage and other publicly available information,

1 *including web page information, related to accessibility and*
 2 *consistent with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42*
 3 *U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation*
 4 *Act (29 U.S.C. 794) at outdoor recreation facilities covered*
 5 *by the assessment required under subsection (a)(1).*

6 **SEC. 102. TRAIL INVENTORY.**

7 *(a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 7 years after the*
 8 *date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned*
 9 *shall—*

10 *(1) conduct a comprehensive assessment of high-*
 11 *priority trails, in accordance with subsection (b), on*
 12 *Federal recreational lands and waters under the ju-*
 13 *risdiction of the respective Secretary concerned, in-*
 14 *cluding measuring each trail’s—*

15 *(A) average and minimum tread width;*

16 *(B) average and maximum running slope;*

17 *(C) average and maximum cross slope;*

18 *(D) tread type; and*

19 *(E) length; and*

20 *(2) make information about such high-priority*
 21 *trails available (including through the use of promi-*
 22 *nently displayed links) on public websites of—*

23 *(A) each of the Federal land management*
 24 *agencies; and*

1 (B) each relevant unit and subunit of the
2 Federal land management agencies.

3 (b) *SELECTION.*—The Secretary concerned shall select
4 high-priority trails to be assessed under subsection (a)(1)—

5 (1) in consultation with stakeholders, including
6 veterans organizations and organizations with exper-
7 tise or experience providing outdoor recreation oppor-
8 tunities to individuals with disabilities;

9 (2) in a geographically equitable manner; and

10 (3) in no fewer than 15 units or subunits man-
11 aged by the Secretary concerned.

12 (c) *INCLUSION OF CURRENT ASSESSMENTS.*—As part
13 of the assessment required under subsection (a)(1), the Sec-
14 retary concerned may, to the extent practicable, rely on as-
15 sessments completed or data gathered prior to the date of
16 the enactment of this Act.

17 (d) *PUBLIC INFORMATION.*—

18 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 7 years after
19 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
20 concerned shall identify opportunities to replace sign-
21 age and other publicly available information, includ-
22 ing web page information, related to such high-pri-
23 ority trails and consistent with the Architectural Bar-
24 riers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section
25 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794) at

1 *high-priority trails covered by the assessment required*
2 *under subsection (a)(1).*

3 (2) *TREAD OBSTACLES.*—*As part of the assess-*
4 *ment required under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary*
5 *may, to the extent practicable, include photographs or*
6 *descriptions of tread obstacles and barriers.*

7 (e) *ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SPECIFICATION.*—*In pub-*
8 *lishing information about each trail under this subsection,*
9 *the Secretary concerned shall make public information*
10 *about trails that do not meet the Architectural Barriers Act*
11 *accessibility guidelines but could otherwise provide outdoor*
12 *recreation opportunities to individuals with disabilities*
13 *through the use of certain assistive technology.*

14 **SEC. 103. TRAIL PILOT PROGRAM.**

15 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 2 years after the*
16 *date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned*
17 *shall carry out a pilot program to enter into partnerships*
18 *with eligible entities to—*

19 (1) *measure high-priority trails as part of the*
20 *assessment required under section 102;*

21 (2) *develop accessible trails under section 104;*
22 *and*

23 (3) *make minor modifications to existing trails*
24 *to enhance recreational experiences for individuals*
25 *with disabilities using assistive technology—*

1 (A) in compliance with all applicable land
2 use and management plans of the Federal rec-
3 reational lands and waters on which the acces-
4 sible trail is located; and

5 (B) in consultation with stakeholders, in-
6 cluding veterans organizations and organizations
7 with expertise or experience providing outdoor
8 recreation opportunities to individuals with dis-
9 abilities.

10 (b) LOCATIONS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall
12 select no fewer than 5 units or subunits under the ju-
13 risdiction of the respective Secretary concerned to
14 carry out the pilot program established under sub-
15 section (a).

16 (2) SPECIAL RULE OF CONSTRUCTION FOR THE
17 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.—In selecting the lo-
18 cations of the pilot program, the Secretary shall en-
19 sure that the pilot program is carried out in at least
20 one unit managed by the—

21 (A) National Park Service;

22 (B) Bureau of Land Management; and

23 (C) United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
24 ice.

1 (c) *SUNSET.*—*The pilot program established under this*
2 *subsection shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after*
3 *the date of the enactment of this Act.*

4 **SEC. 104. ACCESSIBLE TRAILS.**

5 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 1 year after the date*
6 *of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall*
7 *select a location or locations to develop at least 3 new acces-*
8 *sible trails—*

9 (1) *on National Forest System lands in each re-*
10 *gion of the Forest Service;*

11 (2) *on land managed by the National Park Serv-*
12 *ice in each region of the National Park Service;*

13 (3) *on land managed by the Bureau of Land*
14 *Management in each region of the Bureau of Land*
15 *Management; and*

16 (4) *on land managed by the United States Fish*
17 *and Wildlife Service in each region of the United*
18 *States Fish and Wildlife Service.*

19 (b) *DEVELOPMENT.*—*In developing an accessible trail*
20 *under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned—*

21 (1) *may—*

22 (A) *create a new accessible trail;*

23 (B) *modify an existing trail into an acces-*
24 *sible trail; or*

1 (C) create an accessible trail from a com-
2 bination of new and existing trails; and

3 (2) shall—

4 (A) consult with stakeholders with respect to
5 the feasibility and resources necessary for com-
6 pleting the accessible trail;

7 (B) ensure the accessible trail complies with
8 the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42
9 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Reha-
10 bilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794); and

11 (C) to the extent practicable, ensure that
12 outdoor constructed features supporting the ac-
13 cessible trail, including trail bridges, parking
14 spaces, and restroom facilities, meet the require-
15 ments of the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968
16 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the
17 Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794).

18 (c) COMPLETION.—Not later than 7 years after the
19 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned,
20 in coordination with stakeholders described under sub-
21 section (b)(2), shall complete each accessible trail developed
22 under subsection (a).

23 (d) MAPS, SIGNAGE, AND PROMOTIONAL MATE-
24 RIALS.—For each accessible trail developed under sub-
25 section (a), the Secretary concerned shall—

1 (1) *publish and distribute maps and install sign-*
2 *age, consistent with Architectural Barriers Act of*
3 *1968 accessibility guidelines and section 508 of the*
4 *Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d); and*

5 (2) *coordinate with stakeholders to leverage any*
6 *non-Federal resources necessary for the development,*
7 *stewardship, completion, or promotion of the acces-*
8 *sible trail.*

9 (e) *CONFLICT AVOIDANCE WITH OTHER USES.—In de-*
10 *veloping each accessible trail under subsection (a), the Sec-*
11 *retary concerned shall ensure that the accessible trail—*

12 (1) *minimizes conflict with—*

13 (A) *the uses in effect before the date of the*
14 *enactment of this Act with respect to any trail*
15 *that is part of that accessible trail;*

16 (B) *multiple-use areas where biking, hiking,*
17 *horseback riding, off-highway vehicle recreation,*
18 *or use by pack and saddle stock are existing uses*
19 *on the date of the enactment of this Act; or*

20 (C) *the purposes for which any trail is es-*
21 *tablished under the National Trails System Act*
22 *(16 U.S.C. 1241 et seq.); and*

23 (2) *complies with all applicable land use and*
24 *management plans of the Federal recreational lands*
25 *and waters on which the accessible trail is located.*

1 (f) *REPORTS.*—

2 (1) *INTERIM REPORT.*—Not later than 3 years
3 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
4 retary concerned, in coordination with stakeholders
5 and other interested organizations, shall prepare and
6 publish an interim report that lists the accessible
7 trails developed under this section during the previous
8 3 years.

9 (2) *FINAL REPORT.*—Not later than 7 years after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
11 concerned, in coordination with stakeholders and
12 other interested organizations, shall prepare and pub-
13 lish a final report that lists the accessible trails devel-
14 oped under this section.

15 **SEC. 105. ACCESSIBLE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.**

16 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year after the date
17 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall
18 select a location to develop at least 2 new accessible recre-
19 ation opportunities—

20 (1) on National Forest System lands in each re-
21 gion of the Forest Service;

22 (2) on land managed by the National Park Serv-
23 ice in each region of the National Park Service;

1 (3) *on land managed by the Bureau of Land*
2 *Management in each region of the Bureau of Land*
3 *Management; and*

4 (4) *on land managed by the United States Fish*
5 *and Wildlife Service in each region of the United*
6 *States Fish and Wildlife Service.*

7 (b) *DEVELOPMENT.—In developing an accessible recre-*
8 *ation opportunity under subsection (a), the Secretary con-*
9 *cerned—*

10 (1) *may—*

11 (A) *create a new accessible recreation op-*
12 *portunity; or*

13 (B) *modify an existing recreation oppor-*
14 *tunity into an accessible recreation opportunity;*
15 *and*

16 (2) *shall—*

17 (A) *consult with stakeholders with respect to*
18 *the feasibility and resources necessary for com-*
19 *pleting the accessible recreation opportunity;*

20 (B) *ensure the accessible recreation oppor-*
21 *tunity complies with the Architectural Barriers*
22 *Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section*
23 *504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794);*
24 *and*

1 (C) to the extent practicable, ensure that
2 outdoor constructed features supporting the ac-
3 cessible recreation opportunity, including trail
4 bridges, parking spaces and restroom facilities,
5 meet the requirements of the Architectural Bar-
6 riers Act of 1968 and section 504 of the Rehabili-
7 tation Act (29 U.S.C. 794).

8 (c) *ACCESSIBLE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.*—The
9 accessible recreation opportunities developed under sub-
10 section (a) may include improving accessibility or access
11 to—

12 (1) camp shelters, camping facilities, and camp-
13 ing units;

14 (2) hunting, fishing, shooting, or archery ranges
15 or locations;

16 (3) snow activities, including skiing and
17 snowboarding;

18 (4) water activities, including kayaking, pad-
19 dling, canoeing, and boat launch ramps;

20 (5) rock climbing;

21 (6) biking;

22 (7) off-highway vehicle recreation;

23 (8) picnic facilities and picnic units;

24 (9) outdoor constructed features; and

1 (10) any other new or existing recreation oppor-
2 tunities identified in consultation with stakeholders
3 under subsection (b)(2) and consistent with the appli-
4 cable land management plan.

5 (d) *COMPLETION.*—Not later than 7 years after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned,
7 in coordination with stakeholders consulted with under sub-
8 section (b)(2), shall complete each accessible recreation op-
9 portunity developed under subsection (a).

10 (e) *MAPS, SIGNAGE, AND PROMOTIONAL MATE-*
11 *RIALS.*—For each accessible recreation opportunity devel-
12 oped under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall—

13 (1) publish and distribute maps and install sign-
14 age, consistent with Architectural Barriers Act acces-
15 sibility guidelines and section 508 of the Rehabilita-
16 tion Act (29 U.S.C. 794d); and

17 (2) coordinate with stakeholders to leverage any
18 non-Federal resources necessary for the development,
19 stewardship, completion, or promotion of the acces-
20 sible trail.

21 (f) *CONFLICT AVOIDANCE WITH OTHER USES.*—In de-
22 veloping each accessible recreation opportunity under sub-
23 section (a), the Secretary concerned shall ensure that the
24 accessible recreation opportunity—

25 (1) minimizes conflict with—

1 (A) the uses in effect before the date of the
2 enactment of this Act with respect to any Fed-
3 eral recreational lands and waters on which the
4 accessible recreation opportunity is located; or

5 (B) multiple-use areas in existence on the
6 date of the enactment of this Act; and

7 (2) complies with all applicable land use and
8 management plans of the Federal recreational lands
9 and waters on which the accessible recreational op-
10 portunity is located.

11 (g) *REPORTS.*—

12 (1) *INTERIM REPORT.*—Not later than 3 years
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
14 retary concerned, in coordination with stakeholders
15 and other interested organizations, shall prepare and
16 publish an interim report that lists the accessible
17 recreation opportunities developed under this section
18 during the previous 3 years.

19 (2) *FINAL REPORT.*—Not later than 7 years after
20 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
21 concerned, in coordination with stakeholders and
22 other interested organizations, shall prepare and pub-
23 lish a final report that lists the accessible recreation
24 opportunities developed under this section.

1 **SEC. 106. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.**

2 *In carrying out this title, the Secretary concerned may*
 3 *enter into partnerships, contracts, or agreements with other*
 4 *Federal, State, Tribal, local, or private entities, including*
 5 *existing outfitting and guiding services, to make assistive*
 6 *technology available on Federal recreational lands and*
 7 *waters.*

8 **SEC. 107. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

9 *Nothing in the title shall be construed to create any*
 10 *conflicting standards with the Architectural Barriers Act*
 11 *of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Re-*
 12 *habilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794).*

13 **TITLE II—MILITARY AND**
 14 **VETERANS IN PARKS**

15 **SEC. 201. PROMOTION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR**
 16 **MILITARY SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS.**

17 *Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment*
 18 *of this Act, the Secretary concerned, in coordination with*
 19 *the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of De-*
 20 *fense, shall develop educational and public awareness mate-*
 21 *rials to disseminate to members of the Armed Forces and*
 22 *veterans, including through preseparation counseling of the*
 23 *Transition Assistance Program under chapter 1142 of title*
 24 *10, United States Code, on—*

25 *(1) opportunities for members of the Armed*
 26 *Forces and veterans to access Federal recreational*

1 *lands and waters free of charge under section 805 of*
2 *the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16*
3 *U.S.C. 6804), including by prominently displaying*
4 *signage, to the extent practicable, at Federal rec-*
5 *reational lands and waters managed by the National*
6 *Park Service;*

7 *(2) the availability and location of accessible*
8 *trails, including new accessible trails developed and*
9 *completed under section 104;*

10 *(3) the availability and location of accessible*
11 *recreation opportunities, including new accessible*
12 *recreation opportunities developed and completed*
13 *under section 105;*

14 *(4) access to, and assistance with, assistive tech-*
15 *nology;*

16 *(5) outdoor-related volunteer and wellness pro-*
17 *grams;*

18 *(6) the benefits of outdoor recreation for physical*
19 *and mental health;*

20 *(7) resources to access guided outdoor trips and*
21 *other outdoor programs connected to the Department*
22 *of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the*
23 *Department of the Interior, or the Department of Ag-*
24 *riculture; and*

1 (8) *programs and jobs focused on continuing na-*
2 *tional service such as Public Land Corps,*
3 *AmeriCorps, and conservation corps programs.*

4 **SEC. 202. MILITARY VETERANS OUTDOOR RECREATION LI-**
5 **AISONS.**

6 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 1 year after the date*
7 *of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries and the Sec-*
8 *retary of Veterans Affairs shall each establish within their*
9 *Departments the position of Military Veterans Outdoor*
10 *Recreation Liaison.*

11 (b) *DUTIES.*—*The Military Veterans Outdoor Recre-*
12 *ation Liaison shall—*

13 (1) *coordinate the implementation of this title;*

14 (2) *implement recommendations identified by the*
15 *Task Force on Outdoor Recreation for Veterans estab-*
16 *lished under section 203 of the Veterans Comprehen-*
17 *sive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment Act of*
18 *2020 (Public Law 116–214), including recommenda-*
19 *tions related to—*

20 (A) *identifying new opportunities to for-*
21 *malize coordination between the Department of*
22 *Veterans Affairs, Department of Agriculture, De-*
23 *partment of the Interior, and partner organiza-*
24 *tions regarding the use of Federal recreational*

1 *lands and waters for facilitating health and*
 2 *wellness for veterans;*

3 *(B) addressing identified barriers that exist*
 4 *to providing veterans with opportunities to aug-*
 5 *ment the delivery of services for health and*
 6 *wellness through the use of outdoor recreation on*
 7 *Federal recreational lands and waters; and*

8 *(C) facilitating the use of Federal rec-*
 9 *reational lands and waters for promoting*
 10 *wellness and facilitating the delivery of health*
 11 *care and therapeutic interventions for veterans;*

12 *(3) coordinate with Military Veterans Outdoor*
 13 *Recreation Liaisons at other Federal agencies and*
 14 *veterans organizations; and*

15 *(4) promote outdoor recreation experiences for*
 16 *veterans on Federal recreational lands and waters*
 17 *through new and innovative approaches.*

18 **SEC. 203. PARTNERSHIPS TO PROMOTE MILITARY AND VET-**

19 **ERAN RECREATION.**

20 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall seek*
 21 *to enter into partnerships or agreements with State, Tribal,*
 22 *local, or private entities with expertise in outdoor recre-*
 23 *ation, volunteer, accessibility, and health and wellness pro-*
 24 *grams for members of the Armed Forces or veterans.*

1 (b) *PARTNERSHIPS*.—As part of a partnership or
 2 agreement entered into under subsection (a), the Secretary
 3 concerned may host events on Federal recreational lands
 4 and waters designed to promote outdoor recreation among
 5 members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

6 (c) *FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE*.—Under
 7 a partnership or agreement entered into pursuant to sub-
 8 section (a), the Secretary concerned may provide financial
 9 or technical assistance to the entity with which the respec-
 10 tive Secretary concerned has entered into the partnership
 11 or agreement to assist with—

12 (1) the planning, development, and execution of
 13 events, activities, or programs designed to promote
 14 outdoor recreation for members of the Armed Forces
 15 or veterans; or

16 (2) the acquisition of assistive technology to fa-
 17 cilitate improved outdoor recreation opportunities for
 18 members of the Armed Forces or veterans.

19 **SEC. 204. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR MILITARY AND VET-**
 20 **ERAN RECREATION.**

21 (a) *STRATEGY*.—Not later than 1 year after the date
 22 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, acting jointly,
 23 shall develop and make public a strategy to increase visits
 24 to Federal recreational lands and waters by members of the
 25 Armed Forces, veterans, and Gold Star Family members.

1 (b) *REQUIREMENTS.*—A strategy developed under sub-
2 section (a)—

3 (1) *shall*—

4 (A) *establish objectives and quantifiable tar-*
5 *gets for increasing visits to Federal recreational*
6 *lands and waters by members of the Armed*
7 *Forces, veterans, and Gold Star Family mem-*
8 *bers;*

9 (B) *include an opportunity for public no-*
10 *tice and comment;*

11 (C) *emphasize increased recreation opportu-*
12 *nities on Federal recreational lands and waters*
13 *for members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and*
14 *Gold Star Family members; and*

15 (D) *provide the anticipated costs to achieve*
16 *the objectives and meet the targets established*
17 *under subparagraph (A); and*

18 (2) *shall not establish any preference between*
19 *similar recreation facilitated by noncommercial or*
20 *commercial entities.*

21 (c) *UPDATE TO STRATEGY.*—Not later than 5 years
22 after the date of the publication of the strategy required
23 under subsection (a), and every 5 years thereafter, the Sec-
24 retaries, acting jointly, shall update the strategy and make
25 public the update.

1 **SEC. 205. RECREATION RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**

2 *Section 804(d) of the Federal Lands Recreation En-*
 3 *hancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6803(d)), is amended—*

4 *(1) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking “11” and*
 5 *inserting “12”; and*

6 *(2) in paragraph (5)(D)(ii)—*

7 *(A) by striking “Three” and inserting*
 8 *“Four”; and*

9 *(B) after subclause (III), by inserting the*
 10 *following:*

11 *“(IV) Veterans organizations, as*
 12 *such term is defined in section 201 of*
 13 *the MVP Act.”; and*

14 *(3) in paragraph (8) by striking “Eight” and*
 15 *inserting “Six”.*

16 **SEC. 206. CAREER AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR**
 17 **VETERANS.**

18 *(a) VETERAN HIRING.—The Secretaries are strongly*
 19 *encouraged to hire veterans in all positions related to the*
 20 *management of Federal recreational lands and waters.*

21 *(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—*

22 *(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in con-*
 23 *sultation with the Assistant Secretary of Labor for*
 24 *Veterans’ Employment and Training and the Sec-*
 25 *retary of Veterans Affairs, shall establish a pilot pro-*
 26 *gram under which veterans are employed by the Fed-*

1 *eral Government in positions that relate to the con-*
2 *servation and resource management activities of the*
3 *Department of the Interior.*

4 (2) *POSITIONS.—The Secretary shall—*

5 (A) *identify vacant positions in the Depart-*
6 *ment of the Interior that are appropriate to fill*
7 *using the pilot program; and*

8 (B) *to the extent practicable, fill such posi-*
9 *tions using the pilot program.*

10 (3) *APPLICATION OF CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.—A*
11 *veteran employed under the pilot program shall be*
12 *treated as an employee as defined by section 2105 of*
13 *title 5, United States Code.*

14 (4) *BRIEFINGS AND REPORT.—*

15 (A) *INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 60*
16 *days after the date of the enactment of this Act,*
17 *the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of*
18 *Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training*
19 *shall jointly provide to the appropriate congres-*
20 *sional committees a briefing on the pilot pro-*
21 *gram under this subsection, which shall in-*
22 *clude—*

23 (i) *a description of how the pilot pro-*
24 *gram will be carried out in a manner to re-*
25 *duce the unemployment of veterans; and*

1 (ii) any recommendations for legisla-
2 tive actions to improve the pilot program.

3 (B) *IMPLEMENTATION BRIEFING.*—Not later
4 than 1 year after the date on which the pilot
5 program under subsection (a) commences, the
6 Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of Labor
7 for Veterans' Employment and Training shall
8 jointly provide to the appropriate congressional
9 committees a briefing on the implementation of
10 the pilot program.

11 (C) *FINAL REPORT.*—Not later than 30
12 days after the date on which the pilot program
13 under subsection (a) terminates under paragraph
14 (5), the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of
15 Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training
16 shall jointly submit to the appropriate congres-
17 sional committees a report on the pilot program
18 that includes the following:

19 (i) The number of veterans who ap-
20 plied to participate in the pilot program.

21 (ii) The number of such veterans em-
22 ployed under the pilot program.

23 (iii) The number of veterans identified
24 in clause (ii) who transitioned to full-time

1 positions with the Federal Government after
2 participating in the pilot program.

3 (iv) Any other information the Sec-
4 retary and the Assistant Secretary of Labor
5 for Veterans' Employment and Training de-
6 termine appropriate with respect to meas-
7 uring the effectiveness of the pilot program.

8 (5) DURATION.—The authority to carry out the
9 pilot program under this subsection shall terminate
10 on the date that is 2 years after the date on which
11 the pilot program commences.

12 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
13 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
14 sional committees” means—

15 (1) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the
16 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
17 resentatives; and

18 (2) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the
19 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the
20 Senate.

21 (d) OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAM ATTENDANCE.—
22 Each Secretary of a military department is encouraged to
23 allow members of the Armed Forces on active duty status
24 to participate in programs related to environmental stew-
25 ardship or guided outdoor recreation.

Union Calendar No. 744

118TH CONGRESS
2D Session

H. R. 6342

[Report No. 118-911, Part I]

A BILL

To promote and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for members of the Armed Forces and veterans on Federal recreational lands and waters.

DECEMBER 18, 2024

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with
an amendment

DECEMBER 18, 2024

Committees on Agriculture and Veterans' Affairs discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed